



FACIAL RECOGNITION

For Captains and Commanders

Recently, the use of facial recognition by law enforcement has received a lot of media attention. Earlier this year, San Francisco banned the use of facial recognition by the city's police and other agencies. Also, a new Assembly Bill 1215 is on the Senate floor if passed it will prohibit the use of facial recognition in conjunctions with body worn cameras for three years.

With all the new attention on Facial Recognition, there has been a lot of misinformation on how the technology is used and confusion on what databases are being utilized for the face matching.

WHAT IS FACIAL RECOGNITION:

Facial recognition is a way of recognizing a human face through technology. A facial recognition system uses biometrics to map facial features from a photograph or video. It compares the information with a database of known faces to develop a lead.

MISINFORMATION ABOUT FACIAL RECOGNITION IN THE MEDIA:

- **FALSE-** Facial recognition is surveillance.
TRUE- there are two types of facial recognition investigative and surveillance. Law Enforcement only utilizes facial recognition for investigative purposes.
- **FALSE-** There are no laws or oversight governing the use of facial recognition.
TRUE- California Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) laws govern the use of FR when using booking photos as the source comparisons.
- **FALSE-** Facial recognition is identification.
TRUE- The only biometric forms of identification are fingers, Iris and DNA, facial recognition is an investigative lead.

HOW DOES THE DEPARTMENT USE FACIAL RECOGNITION SOFTWARE:

- Facial Recognition searches are used in criminal investigations only and are subject to CORI, 11105 PC rules and the users are required to have a "right to know" and the "need to know." It also provides penalties if violated
- Photos used in the facial recognition software are from booking mug photos only, no other photos such as CAL-Photo or social media photos are uploaded into the database.
- Facial Recognition software will generate a list of possible candidates. The investigator must then conduct further investigation to determine if a possible candidate is their suspect.
- Facial Recognition software is never to be used as a positive identification, it is an investigative lead only.
- The San Bernardino County Sheriff cannot do live facial recognition via surveillance cameras or body worn cameras. It is only used on crimes that have already been committed and a suspect lead is needed.
- It is hard to provide Facial Recognition statistics because the system doesn't identify anyone, there is not a way to track which inquiries result in an arrest.
- Numerous cases have been solved with the assistance of facial recognition in San Bernardino County
- Facial recognition not only serves to help identify a person suspected of committing a crime, but also could be used to eliminate a person as well. It can also help identify critical missing persons and deceased individuals.